

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the claims as amended.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1 has been amended. Claims 2-20 have been canceled. New claims 21-49 have been added. Therefore, claims 1 and 21-49 are presented for examination.

Examiner rejected claims 1, 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a), (e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,371,807 issued to Register, et al.

Examiner rejected claims 2, 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Register in view of alleged knowledge in the art.

Examiner rejected claims 3, 12, 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Register in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,765,028 issued to Gladden.

Examiner rejected claims 4, 10, 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Register in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,085,201 issued to Tso.

Examiner rejected claims 5-8, 13-16, 19, 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Register view of U.S. Patent No. 6,052,121 issued to Webster, et al.

Register discusses a method of text classification. Using input text, Register parses the input text into a list of recognized keywords. The text is then evaluated, to assign meaning to the words. The "keywords" of Register are "words in a lexicon" (Register, line 55-60). Thus, the function of Register is to interpret the meaning of a natural language text, by recognizing the words, and from them deducing context. Register is designed for text processing. Register does not teach or suggest

responding to a user message, or outputting a response to a user. There is no suggestion, nor any interest, in user interaction in Register. Rather, Register is designed to automate handling of document classification, in order to remove the need for any user interaction.

Gladden discusses a mail query agent using neural intelligence.

Tso discusses a context sensitive template engine. Tso's template engine generates a context-sensitive text message corresponding to an input text. It is designed to be used to help user compose or reply to email messages.

Webster discusses generating a graphical user interface that summarizes information in an easy and user-friendly format in a database which stores topics and responses to those topics.

There is no motivation to combine Register with any of these references. Applicant respectfully submits that such motivation must be found within the reference itself, and no such motivation can be found in these references. Register is a free-standing application for text classification. There is no motivation to incorporate a mail query agent, a template engine, or a GUI into the technology of Register. Therefore, the rejections in light of the combination of Register with any of these references, should be withdrawn.

Additionally, even in combination, the references do not make the claims, as amended, obvious.

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

An apparatus for responding to a message entered by a user in a computer system, the apparatus comprising:
a user input device for receiving an input message from the user;
a parser to identify a keyword in the input message, the parser to

associate the input message to an information object associated with the keyword; and
a user output device to present information to the user .

(Claim 1, as amended). As noted above, Register does not teach or suggest the user input device, or the user output device to provide information to the user. In fact, Register is drawn to a different purpose, not to "responding to a message entered by a user" as claimed. Therefore, claim 1, and claims 21-35 which depend on it, are not anticipated by Register.

Similarly, newly added independent claim 36 recites:

A system comprising:
an object database including a plurality of information objects, each information object coupled to one or more keywords;
a user interface to receive a user input message;
a parser to parse the user input message to detect one or more keywords and select the related one or more information objects; and
a user output device to provide feedback to the user indicating the action to be taken by the selected one or more identified information objects.

(Claim 36). Register does not teach or suggest providing feedback to a user indicating an action to be taken in response to a user input message, as recited in claim 36. Rather, Register is focused on automatic text classification, without requiring user interaction. Therefore, claim 36, and claims 37-48 which depend on it, are not anticipated by or obvious over Register.

Claim 49 recites:

An method to respond to a message comprising:
receiving an input message from a user;
identifying a keyword in the input message;
associating the input message with an information object associated with the keyword; and
presenting information to the user based on the information object.

(Claim 49). Register does not teach or suggest providing feedback to a user indicating an action to be taken in response to a user input message, as recited in claim 49. Rather, Register is focused on automatic text classification, without requiring user interaction. Therefore, claim 49 is not anticipated by or obvious over Register.

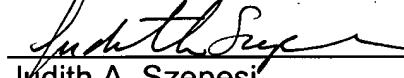
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8598.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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